

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3795

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, CU

SUBJ: CUBAN FONMIN ROA'S GENERAL DEBATE SPEECH OCTOBER 7

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. IN HIS HOUR-LONG SPEECH TO UNGA PLENARY MORNING OCT 7, CUBAN FONMIN ROA FOCUSED MAINLY ON EVENTS IN CHILE AND OIL PRICE INCREASES AND LAMBASTED US. POSITION ON BOTH ISSUES. HE QUOTED AT LENGTH FROM FIDEL CASTRO'S SEPTEMBER 29TH SPEECH AT CDR ANNIVERSARY RALLY BUT ELIMINATED CASTRO'S REFERENCES TO ALLEGED US. ACTS OF AGGRESSION AGAINST LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND TO PRESIDENT FORD'S PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT ON CHILE. AGAIN QUOTING FROM CASTRO, ROA WARNED VENEZUELA OF IMPERIALIST DESIGNS ON IT AND URGED VENEZUELA TO FOLLOW EXAMPLE OF CUBAN REVOLUTION.

2. ON RELATIONS WITH US., ROA SAID: "CUBA IS A BLOCADAED NATION. THE CUBAN DELEGATION RENEWS ITS ENERGETIC CONDEMNATION OF THAT AGGRESSIVE MEASURE AND REITERATES THAT ANY OFFICIAL NEGOTIATION OF THE DISPUTE BETWEEN CUBA AND THE US CANNOT BE STARTED UNLESS THAT CRIMINAL ARBITRARY, ANACHRONISTIC AND CONTRADICTORY BLOCKADE IS LIFTED."

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3. ROA MADE BRIEF TWO-SENTENCE REFERENCE TO PUERTO

RICO, CLAIMING THAT IT IS STILL "ENSLAVED BY US. COLONIAL DOMINATION" AND THAT IT WILL "SOONER OR LATER OBTAIN ITS COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE AND ENTER THE UN". HE ADDED THAT CUBA "WILL NEVER CEASE HERE SUPPORT OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE IN THEIR PATRIOTIC EFFORTS."

4. AMBASSADOR SCALI ISSUED FOLLOWING PRESS STATEMENT AFTERNOON OCTOBER 7: QUOTE AT A TIME WHEN THE WORLD COMMUNITY IS TRYING TO MOVE TOWARDS GREATER COOPERATION, CUBA SENDS FORTH ITS FOREIGN MINISTER WITH HIS ANCIENT PRESCRIPTION FOR CONFRONTATION. HIS WORDS ARE PATHETICALLY OUT OF DATE--AN ECHO OF THE DARK WORLD FROM WHICH HE OCCASIONALLY SURFACES. UNAWARE TIME HAS PASSED HIM BY, THE FOREIGN MINISTER CONTINUES TO RELY ON THE TOOLS OF SLANDER, INVECTIVE AND PERSONAL INSULT AT A TIME WHEN ELIGHTENED WORLD LEADERS CALL FOR MORE UNDERSTANDING, PATIENCE AND GOODWILL. I CATEGORICALLY REJECT HIS SCURRILOUS ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES AND HIS TIRESOME ALLEGATIONS OF UNITED STATES RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVENTS IN CHILE. HIS PLEA FOR CUBAN-STYLE INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO WILL BE AS EFFECTIVE AND AS APPEALING AS HIS PREVIOUS EFFORTS. FINALLY, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE WHOLE TONE AND CONTENT OF HIS REMARKS STAND IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THE EFFORTS OF THE REST OF THE NATIONS OF THIS HEMISPHERE TO RENEW OUR SENSE OF COMMUNITY THROUGH A NEW DIALOGUE. UNQTE.

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5. COMMENT: ARGENTINIAN, PERUVIAN AND SPANISH PERMREPS TOLD AMBASSADORS SCALI AND BENNETT AT LUNCH OCT 7 THAT US. MADE CORRECT DECISION IN NOT REPLYING TO ROA IN PLENARY. THEY FOUND ROA'S SPEECH "QUITE CONCILIATORY, CONSIDERING ITS SOURCE". CORRESPONDENTS OF NEW YORK TIMES (TELSCH) AND NEW YORK POST (BERLIN) ALSO FOUND ROA'S SPEECH TO BE MILD IN COMPARISON WITH HIS PREVIOUS CONFIDENTIAL

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UN DIATRIBES AND WERE SURPRISED AS DIPLOMATS HAD BEEN BY ROA'S NOT MENTIONING GUATANAMO ISSUE AND HIS DOWN-PLAYING OF PUERTO RICO. BOTH CORRESPONDENTS ASSUMED THAT ROA'S RELIANCE ON QUOTATIONS FROM CHAIRMAN CASTRO FOR BULK OF SPEECH MEANT THAT USUALLY FREE WHEELING ROA UNDER TIGHT REINS. NICARAGUAN AND PARAGUAYAN PERMREPS TOOK STRONG EXCEPTION TO ROA'S DISPENSING UNSOLICITED ADVICE TO VENEZUELA AND THOUGHT IT

DEMONSTRATED CONTINUED CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFFAIRS
OF OTHER LA NATIONS. WE ALSO NOTE THAT
ROA, IN CONTRAST TO HIS USUAL UNGA PERFORMANCE, DID NOT
ATTACK ANY LA COUNTRY OTHER THAN CHILE, THEREBY
ELIMINATING NECESSITY FOR BRAZILIANS, BOLIVIANS, AND
OTHERS TO REPLY IN KIND.

6. WE HAVE ADVISED PUERTO RICAN OFFICIALS OF CONTENTS
OF ROA'S REMARKS ON PUERTO RICO.
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